

Rights Action  
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## **“Dirty Money” – Letter to Rugby Canada and YWCA Metro Vancouver**

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### **“Dirty Money”**

Dear friends,

i have learned over the years how important names really are. In my Mi'kmaq culture, (i am a mix of Mi'kmaq and Inuit) Grandmother Turtle teaches us the gift of Truth, and that they are also Healers. It is my belief that the two, truth and healing, go hand in hand. This gift of truth-seeking comes with the responsibility of truth-telling. This is an important truth that must be named and shared.

Kwe. i am called white turtle woman and i have some truths to share with you, as two important organizations whose names have become symbols of health and well-being going hand in hand with quality of life: YWCA Metro-Vancouver and Rugby Canada.

i have many fond memories, particularly as a child going to the "Y", both as part of our school's weekly activity and as part of a family who very much enjoyed the Y's pool during the cold months. Although i myself have never played rugby, i am aware of the respect associated with the name, Rugby Canada.

This respect for the reputation that you both have earned also comes with great responsibility.

This country that many call Canada was stolen from its original peoples through the brutal and savage acts of mainly English and French ancestors. It was justified through lies and deceit so that the Canadian people believed that the means justified the ends. The recent Truth and Reconciliation events revealed only a small portion of Canada's accurate history to Canadians.

i have heard many Canadians say, in one form or another, that 'that happened a long time ago' and that 'we are not responsible for what happened then'. To that i say, yes, that may be. However, the truth of the matter is that Canadians still reap the benefits of this land that your ancestors stole, and all it has to offer, while we, the original peoples still do not. And now, the truth is that this old argument for protecting oneself from the responsibility of acting with fairness, equity, and with integrity, no longer exists.

Today, through the YWCA's and Rugby Canada's actions of accepting money from Goldcorp, each of you personally are guilty of directly benefitting from the illegal land seizures, murders and marginalization of Mayan People in their own lands by Canadian mining companies like Goldcorp that is still going on to this day in places like Guatemala.

i was funded by an organization called Breaking the Silence, to travel to Guatemala in 2012. We joined a delegation led by Grahame Russell of Rights Action to stand with the Mayan People and witness firsthand Canada's accurate history of violence and terror against the first peoples of those lands, once again in the name of greed.

i visited the communities in Guatemala directly impacted by the rapes, murders and other violations of both the land and its peoples by Goldcorp and its employees. i talked with them, laughed with them and cried with them. They are real people. They live humbly, and are just looking to continue living off the land that has been passed down to them through generations from their ancestors, and to raise their children in safety and peace. Isn't that what you both promote?

Perhaps these mining companies hope to clean the blood off their riches through donations to you or perhaps they are trying to polish their image. i don't know. The truth is though that by you affiliating yourselves with Goldcorp in any fashion, means that you are consciously and intentionally choosing to participate in current, present day, unacceptable and needless death and destruction of both land and its peoples for money.

i find that reprehensible and will share this truth with as many people as possible so that those who have come to trust your name will be much more informed of your true spirit.

All my relations.

Cathy Gerrior

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## What To Do

### Tax-Deductible Donations

To support mining harmed campesino and indigenous communities in Honduras and Guatemala, struggling for community-controlled development, human rights and the environment, struggling against the impunity and corruption of global mining companies and their governments, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- United States: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

To donate stock, contact: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### Gold Fever

This award-winning film by Northland Films documents how Goldcorp continues to mine relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipacapa, Guatemala, despite 10 years of repression, human rights violations, environmental destruction, and endemic corruption and impunity. Gold Fever takes the viewer into the homes and communities of the courageous Mayan Mam people resisting the harms and violations, struggling for justice and a different "development" model.

- Trailer/Information: [www.goldfevermovie.com/](http://www.goldfevermovie.com/)

### All That Glitters Isn't Gold: A Story Of Exploitation And Resistance

This film by Steven Schnoor documents the lives of people residing near Goldcorp's open-pit/ mountain-top removal, cyanide-leaching gold mine in Honduras' Siria valley, and the devastating health harms and other violations they have suffered.

- Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tmqXc5rX8s>
- (Full film available on youtube.)

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